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FEDERAL CENSUS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE DEAFBLIND

TO SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS:

The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project is again conducting the Federally mandated census of individuals who are deafblind (birth through 22 years of age) in the State of Missouri. The Deafblind Census includes individuals **who have any type and/or degree of combined visual and auditory loss**. These individuals **do not** need to be legally blind nor do they need to have a severe to profound auditory impairment.

The Census makes the education and/or any other team providing services to these individuals, including their families, eligible for technical assistance, in-service training, and consultation.

DEFINITIONS

Definition of Deafblindness: The term, “children with deaf-blindness,” means children and youth having auditory **and** visual impairments, the combination of which creates such severe communication and other developmental and learning needs that they cannot be appropriately educated without special education and related services, beyond those that would be provided solely for children with hearing impairments, visual impairments, or severe disabilities, to address their educational needs due to these concurrent disabilities. This term also means infants and toddlers with deafblindness.

It is not necessary for a student to be identified as both visually impaired/blind and hearing impaired/deaf according to the Missouri State Plan for Special Education eligibility criteria to be included on the Deafblind Census. **When both visual and hearing loss of any degree are present, register the student on the Census, even if the student was counted in the Child Count under a different disability category.**

The term “infants and toddlers with deaf-blindness” means individuals from birth through age 2 who are experiencing developmental delays in hearing and vision, have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a **high probability** of resulting in developmental

delays in hearing and vision, or are at risk of having substantial developmental delays in hearing and vision if early intervention services are not provided.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE CENSUS FORMS

Please be sure to read the “STOP” instructions stated on the top of page 1 of the Deafblind Census Reporting Form.

1. If you do not have individuals who are deafblind to report, complete the one-page **MO DEAFBLIND CENSUS REPORT FORM 2010 “NONE TO REPORT”** and return it to Susan Bonner.
2. If you do have new individuals who are deafblind to report, complete and return the four-page **2010 MO DEAFBLIND CENSUS REPORTING FORM**, and the **Parent Release Form** (with parent’s/guardian’s signature). If you are unable to get the Parent Release Form signed and returned with the Census Form by the due date, please send the Census Form without it and return the signed Parent Release Form under separate cover. Please copy as many of the enclosed forms as you need for each individual who is to be reported.
3. For individuals who were reported last year, please update the information on the enclosed one-page census information form and include their **MOSIS** number, assigned by the State of Missouri. **Mark any changes and or corrections on this form, including revised race/ethnic codes and MOSIS number.** If the form is correct, mark correct, your name and date on the form and return it. When using this form, it is not necessary then to complete the 4-page census reporting form. Do send in the parent release form signed. If the student is no longer served by you, please return the form and note this on the first page and, if known, please list the new service provider.

Also, if the vision and/or hearing impairment identified last year noted that the student required **“further testing needed,”** the student will need to have a documented loss this year and if applicable the degree of the loss. If this is not documented then this student will be removed from the census. Please note that any new students on the census have one year to secure the proper documentation of the vision and/or hearing loss.

4. Return the Deafblind Reporting Form to Susan Bonner, Missouri School for the Blind, 3815 Magnolia Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110-4099, or fax the form to 314-773-3762 by February 1, 2011. Should you have any questions, contact Susan Bonner at 314-776-4320, ext. 3255 or susan.bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Susan Bonner, Deafblind Project Coordinator
Enclosures